



EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Examining Group Number 2863

For Fee Only

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Mark A. Smith et al.	Examiner:	Michael P. Nghiem
Serial No.:	09/839,385	Group Art Unit:	2863
Filed:	April 20, 2001	Docket No.:	10001074-1
Title:	INK CONTAINER CONFIGURED TO ESTABLISH RELIABLE FLUIDIC CONNECTION TO A RECEIVING STATION		

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
MAR 03 2004

Dear Sir/Madam:

This Amendment accompanies the Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) filed herewith, and is responsive to the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed January 7, 2004. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

03/11/2004 VBROWN2 00000001 500471 09839385

01 FC:1201	86.00 DA
02 FC:1202	54.00 DA

Preliminary Amendment
Applicant: Mark A. Smith et al.
Serial No.: 09/839,385
Filed: April 20, 2001
Docket No.: 10001074-1

Title: INK CONTAINER CONFIGURED TO ESTABLISH RELIABLE FLUIDIC CONNECTION TO A RECEIVING STATION

Allowable Subject Matter

In light of the above, Applicant believes independent claims 1, 7, 10, 16 and 21, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)(c). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 500471.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' Representative at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Smith et al.,

By their attorneys,

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, PLLC
Fifth Street Towers, Suite 2250
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 573-2000
Facsimile: (612) 573-2005

Date: FEB 23, 2004
MBM:dmd

Matthew B. McNutt
Matthew B. McNutt
Reg. No. 39,766

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 23rd day of February, 2004.

By Matthew B. McNutt
Name: Matthew B. McNutt